

Abitibi Consolidated Sales Corporation Site Public Participation Plan

*Prepared by:
Washington Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office, Toxics Cleanup Program
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Introduction

The Abitibi Consolidated Sales Corporation (Abitibi) Site is located at 4302 Chambers Creek Road, Steilacoom, WA. The facility has historically been operated as a newsprint manufacturing mill since 1919. Abitibi acquired the facility in January 1998 from Stone Consolidated. Abitibi operated the facility until it shut it down in December 2000.

The Environmental site investigations include a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) dated January 2001, a Phase II ESA dated May 2005, a soil and groundwater field investigation dated July 2005, and additional soil and groundwater characterization performed in February 2006. These were conducted by Abitibi on its property and have documented the presence of petroleum hydrocarbons and benzene in soil and groundwater, and arsenic in the groundwater above MTCA Method A standards. These contaminants are currently the chemicals of concern (COCs) for the Site. Based on documentation provided by Abitibi, the presence of COCs at the site appears to have predated Abitibi's ownership. The site characterization work has been reviewed by Ecology and has been approved to be included within the RI report.

Abitibi initially proposed to address the site under the MTCA Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) with Ecology's review of the cleanup. However, Ecology made the determination that a remedial Site Investigation (RI) should be conducted under the terms of an Agreed Order because of the industrial history of the site, and because of its location adjacent to Chambers Bay.

During 2006, Abitibi proceeded with the excavation and disposal of 3445 tons of impacted soils from an area of 8780 square feet near the shipping warehouse, including extensive soil and groundwater testing, and backfilled with clean material. Groundwater monitoring wells were installed in and around the excavated area, and a groundwater monitoring program was recently submitted to Ecology for approval.

Because Abitibi had anticipated going under the VCP, much of the investigation and clean-up work on the site had already been done prior to entering into negotiations with Ecology for the Agreed Order. Ecology reviewed the documentation of work performed up to that time and was also present during the cleanup action. Ecology has approved further work to be done before the Agreed Order would be in effect.

For more information about the site's history and condition, please read the attached Agreed Order No. DE 3154.

What is a Public Participation Plan?

Under Washington's Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Chapter 70.15D RCW), the public is guaranteed opportunities to learn about and provide input on important cleanup decisions.

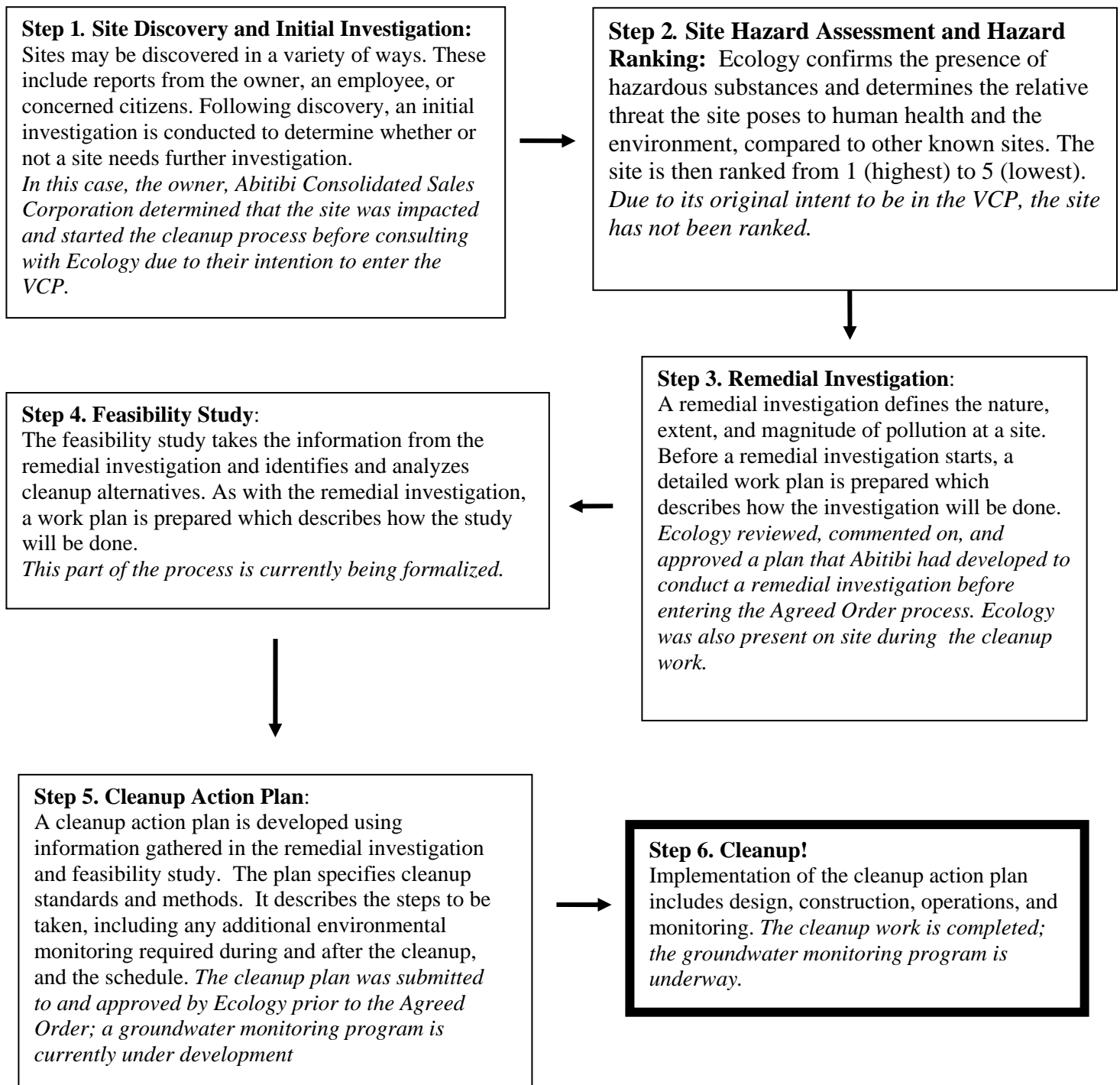
Ecology's goal is to encourage public understanding of and participation in the investigation and cleanup of the Abitibi site. This plan describes how the public will be kept informed and involved. This plan may need to change as the investigation and cleanup moves forward. If big changes are made to this plan, the public will be invited to review and comment on the changes.

Public Participation Grants Available

Grants may be available to neighborhood committees, non-profits, and other groups near the site. These funds may be used to provide additional public involvement, to receive technical assistance, and/or enhance the public's understanding of the cleanup process. For more information, contact Kathy Seel at (360) 407-6061 or KSEE461@ecy.wa.gov, or visit Ecology's Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program website: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/grants.html

Steps in the Cleanup Process

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) defines each step of the cleanup process to protect human health and the environment. The chart below describes each step.



Some steps described in the chart include “Agreed Orders” or “consent decrees”. These are agreements between Ecology and the parties responsible for cleanup of the pollution. In addition to the steps in the chart, “interim actions” may be taken during steps 1 through 5 (the investigation) to reduce or eliminate pollution that poses an immediate threat to human health or the environment.

The cleanup process is complex. Issues often arise that require more attention or evaluation, and may lead to changes in the steps or schedule. Every effort will be made to keep the public well-informed of changes.

Milestones and Public Involvement Opportunities

Key actions and public participation opportunities expected for the Abitibi site are listed below.

Milestones and Public Involvement Opportunities for the Abitibi Consolidated Sales Corporation Steilacoom Site	
MILESTONE	ESTIMATED DATE
Draft Agreed Order for Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and Interim Actions	October 30, 2006
Public Comment Requested: Public notice provided by Fact Sheet, Site Register Notice, Legal Ad	October 30, 2006
Final Agreed Order for Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and Interim Actions	November 30, 2006
Perform Remedial Investigation	Done
Draft Remedial Investigation Report	October, 2006
Final Remedial Investigation Report	November, 2006
Draft Feasibility Study	October, 2006
Final Feasibility Study	November, 2006
Draft Cleanup Action Plan	January, 2007
Public Comment Requested: Public notice provided by Fact Sheet, Site Register Notice, Legal Ad	January, 2007
Final Cleanup Action Plan	February – March, 2007

Public Participation Tools to Be Used

Ecology and Abitibi will use a variety of tools to involve the public in the investigation and cleanup of the site. The tools to be used are described below. This list of tools may change as more is learned about the site.

Formal Public Comment Period: The public will be asked to provide comment on key decisions and actions related to the site. The public will be invited to comment at specific points during the investigation and cleanup (see Milestones and Public Involvement Opportunities for the Abitibi site, page 3), and will have at least 30 days to provide comment. Comments will need to be provided in writing (by letter or e-mail), or by phone.

Responsiveness Summary: After every public comment period, Ecology will review all comments received and may respond in a written responsiveness summary. The summary would then be made available to the public at the information repositories listed below.

Information Repositories: Documents and other printed materials will be made available to the public at two convenient locations near the site. Printed materials will be placed at the repositories listed below during comment periods and will remain there for the duration of the cleanup process. Ecology also can provide copies of documents upon request for a small fee.

- **Tacoma Public Library**, 1102 Tacoma Ave., Tacoma, WA, (253) 591-5666
- **Citizens for A Healthy Bay**, 917 Pacific Ave. Suite 100, Tacoma, WA 98402, (253) 383-2429
- **WA Department of Ecology SWRO Toxics Cleanup Program**
300 Desmond Drive, PO Box 47775, Olympia, WA 98504-7775
(360) 407-6365

Site Register and Public Events Calendar: Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program will use its bimonthly *Site Register* and web-based *Public Involvement Calendar* to announce all public meetings and comment periods related to the investigation and cleanup of the site. To receive a copy of the *Site Register*, please contact Linda Thompson at (360) 407-6069 or LTHO461@ecy.wa.gov. Copies also are available on the Ecology website at www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/site_reg.html. Ecology's *Public Involvement Calendar* may be found at www.ecy.gov.

Public Meetings: Public meetings may be held to share information or hear public comment when an issue is complex or there is a high level of interest in the community. Fliers, articles or display ads in The Tacoma News Tribune and other methods will be used to well-publicize the event if a public meeting is scheduled.

Mailing List: Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program has developed a mailing list for the Steilacoom area. Ecology will update the list as needed. Please contact Marv Coleman at

(360) 407-6259 (phone) or MCOL461@ecy.wa.gov (e-mail) to be added to or removed from the mailing list.

Fact and Focus Sheets: Fact and focus sheets for the site may be used to inform the public of meetings, comment opportunities on key decisions and actions, and other important activities. These brief fliers will be:

- mailed to key stakeholders, including property owners and residents within the area;
- made available at the repositories listed above; and
- posted on Ecology's website.

News Releases: Ecology may issue news releases to the media on major milestones, significant events, and accomplishments related to the site.

Contacts

For project-related questions, please contact Ecology's project manager:

Marv Coleman, SWRO Toxics Cleanup Program

PO Box 47775, Olympia, WA 98504-4775

Phone: (360) 407-6259 (voice)

For TTY, please call 711 or 1-800-833-6388

E-mail: MCOL461@ecy.wa.gov